SYLLABUS

British Empire and Commonwealth
History 265
Rhodes College
Fall Semester 1998
Professor Lynn Zastoupil

Office: Clough 307
Office Hours: MWF 10:15-11:15 (and by appointment)
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COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will introduce students to some of the main historical developments in the British Empire and Commonwealth during the period 1713-1970. During this time Britain gained, and lost, an empire unrivaled in human history. It is the objective of this course to understand some of the main reasons for British imperial expansion in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and the retreat from empire in the twentieth century. The impact of empire on British political, social and economic life will be considered, as will be the influence of British culture and institutions on the colonies. Imperial ideas, the growth of racial attitudes, and other intellectual issues and social problems associated with the empire will also be addressed. It is intended that students will leave the course with a firm understanding of the nature, extent, and importance of the British empire.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This is a lecture course with substantial reading. Students will be expected to attend class regularly (no more than three unexcused absences are allowed), to pay close attention to lecture materials, and to be prepared to discuss all assigned readings. There will be a mid-term and a final examination, both of which will be largely essay. A research paper (8-12 pages long, using a minimum of 4 sources) must be completed by November 23. Students will also be graded on the basis of classroom participation, including one discussion session conducted over the Internet by a guest professor from South Africa. Students unable or unwilling to participate in class discussions may keep a journal of the assigned readings which may be turned in to be graded. Final grades will be determined as follows: journal/class participation - 25%; mid-term examination - 25%; research paper - 25%; final examination - 25%. All assignments must be handed in by class time on the date specified. All late papers will be automatically reduced by one letter grade.

BOOKS TO PURCHASE

Trevor Lloyd, The British Empire
Sidney Mintz, Sweetness and Power
Rudyard Kipling, Two Tales
D.R. Headrick, Tools of Empire
John Mackenzie, ed., Imperialism and Popular Culture
Mohandas Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, ed. A. Parel
Paidraig O'Malley, Uncivil Wars
COURSE OUTLINE

Week I Introduction
August 26  Introduction
August 28  Expansion of Europe

Week II Mercantilism
August 30  North America
Sept.  2  India and Theory of Mercantilism
Sept.  4  Slaves and Empire (Mintz, Chpt. 1-4)
Background reading: Lloyd, Chpt. 3

Week III Political Revolutions in North America and India
Sept.  7  Labor Day recess
Sept.  9  North America
Sept. 11  India
Background reading: Lloyd, Chpt. 4

Week IV Empire and Industrialism
Sept. 16  Free Trade and Anti-Imperialism
Sept. 18  Imperialism of Free Trade
Background reading: Lloyd, Chpt. 5-6

Week V Reformers and Empire
Sept. 21  Abolition of Slavery
Sept. 23  Reforming India (T. Macaulay, “Minute on Indian Education” - on
Sept. 25  Missionaries
Background reading: Lloyd, Chpt. 6 (cont.)

Week VI Colonial Uprisings and Popular Imperialism
Sept. 28  1857 in India
Sept. 30  Jamaican Revolt
October 2  Popular Imperialism (Kipling, “The Man Who Would be King”)
Background reading: Lloyd, Chpt. 7

Week VII Irish Home Rule
October 5  The Irish Question
October 7  Home Rule and British Politics
October 9  MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Week VIII The New Imperialism
October 12  Opium Wars and China
October 14  Scramble for Africa
October 16  Tools of Empire (Headrick, all)
Background reading: Lloyd, Chpt. 8

Week IX The Late-Victorian Enthusiasm for Empire
October 19  Fall recess
October 21  Intellectuals and Empire
October 23  Social Imperialism (A. Burton, Burdens of History, Chpt. 1, on reserve)  
  Background reading: Lloyd, Chpt. 9

Week X Popular Imperialism and the Boer War
  October 26  Popular Imperialism (Mackenzie, Chpt. 2-4, 6)
  October 28  South African diamonds and gold
  October 30  Boer War
  Background reading: Lloyd, Chpt. 10

Week XI Aftermath of Wars
  November 2  Liberal Critique of Empire and Boer War
  November 4  World War One and Ireland
  November 6  World War One and the Commonwealth
  Background reading: Lloyd, Chpt. 10 (cont.)

Week XII Between the Wars
  November 9  India (Gandhi [all], W. B. Yeats, “The Literary Movement in Ireland,” on
  November 11  Middle East
  November 13  Popular Imperialism Before the War (Mackenzie, Chpt. 7-9, Orwell,
  Background reading: Lloyd, Chpt. 11

Week XIII World War Two and Decolonization
  November 16  Retreat from Asia and Africa
  November 18  Middle East and Suez
  November 20  Aftermath of Empire in South Asia
  Background reading: Lloyd, pp.321-342, 347-360

Week XIV Aftermath of Empire
  November 23  South Africa: Origins of Apartheid
  Nov. 25, 27  Thanksgiving Recess

  RESEARCH PAPERS DUE NOVEMBER 23

Week XV Aftermath of Empire II
  November 30  South Africa: Hey-Day of Apartheid
  December 2  South Africa (Internet discussion: readings on reserve)
  December 4  Immigration and Racism
  Background reading, Lloyd, pp.342-346

Week XVI Aftermath of Empire III
  December 7  Northern Ireland (O'Malley, Intro., Chpt. 2, 5-8)
  December 9  Review